



# Motor Fuel Tax Funds

## Source, Distribution & Uses for County 2017



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



*Motor Fuel Tax Funds Source, Distribution, & Uses for County*

Prepared and Published by  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Local Roads & Streets

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## **DOCUMENT CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY**

*The Motor Fuel Tax Funds Source, Distribution, & Uses for County* is reviewed after the general township election every four years. Changes to this manual are approved by the Bureau of Local Roads & Streets, Illinois Association of County Engineers, and the Township Officials of Illinois.

### **Distribution**

This manual is available in the Illinois Technology Transfer Center's library as a Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Center's web site and as a hard copy. Hard copies are also provided to the Illinois Association of County Engineers and the Township Officials of Illinois for highway commissioner training.

### **Revision History**

The Bureau of Local Roads & Streets maintains archived copies of the manual since 2001.

<u>Revision Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approval</u>
July 1, 2017	Updated Changes in Policy and Statute	Barry Kent

## PREFACE

This pamphlet was prepared to provide local public agencies officials with a quick reference to the source, distribution and uses of Motor Fuel Tax funds. The contents of this document shall serve as a reference and not the final authority on the receipt or expenditure of Motor Fuel Tax funds.

The following chapters of the Illinois Compiled Statutes were used in the development of this pamphlet:

- Chapter 35 Revenue,
- Chapter 55 Counties,
- Chapter 60 Townships,
- Chapter 65 Municipalities,
- Chapter 605 Highway Code.

The following chapters of the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Manual were used in the developments of this pamphlet:

- Chapter 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.

SOURCE OF THE MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND

The Illinois Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund is derived from a tax on the privilege of operating motor vehicles upon public highways and of operating recreational watercraft upon the waters of this State, based on the consumption of motor fuel.

The motor fuel taxes that are deposited in the Illinois MFT Fund are:

- a. 19.0 cents per gallon
- b. 2.5 cents per gallon on diesel fuel in addition to the tax in (a) above.

The Department of Transportation allocates these monies according to the provisions outlined in the MFT fund distribution statute, 35 ILCS 505/8 and initiates the process for distribution of motor fuel tax to the counties, townships, and municipalities.

Each month a warrant is issued to each county treasurer in the amount of the county's share of Motor Fuel Tax Fund collected for the preceding month. Monthly distributions are posted on the department's website.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND

The money deposited each month in the state Motor Fuel Tax Fund shall be distributed as follows:

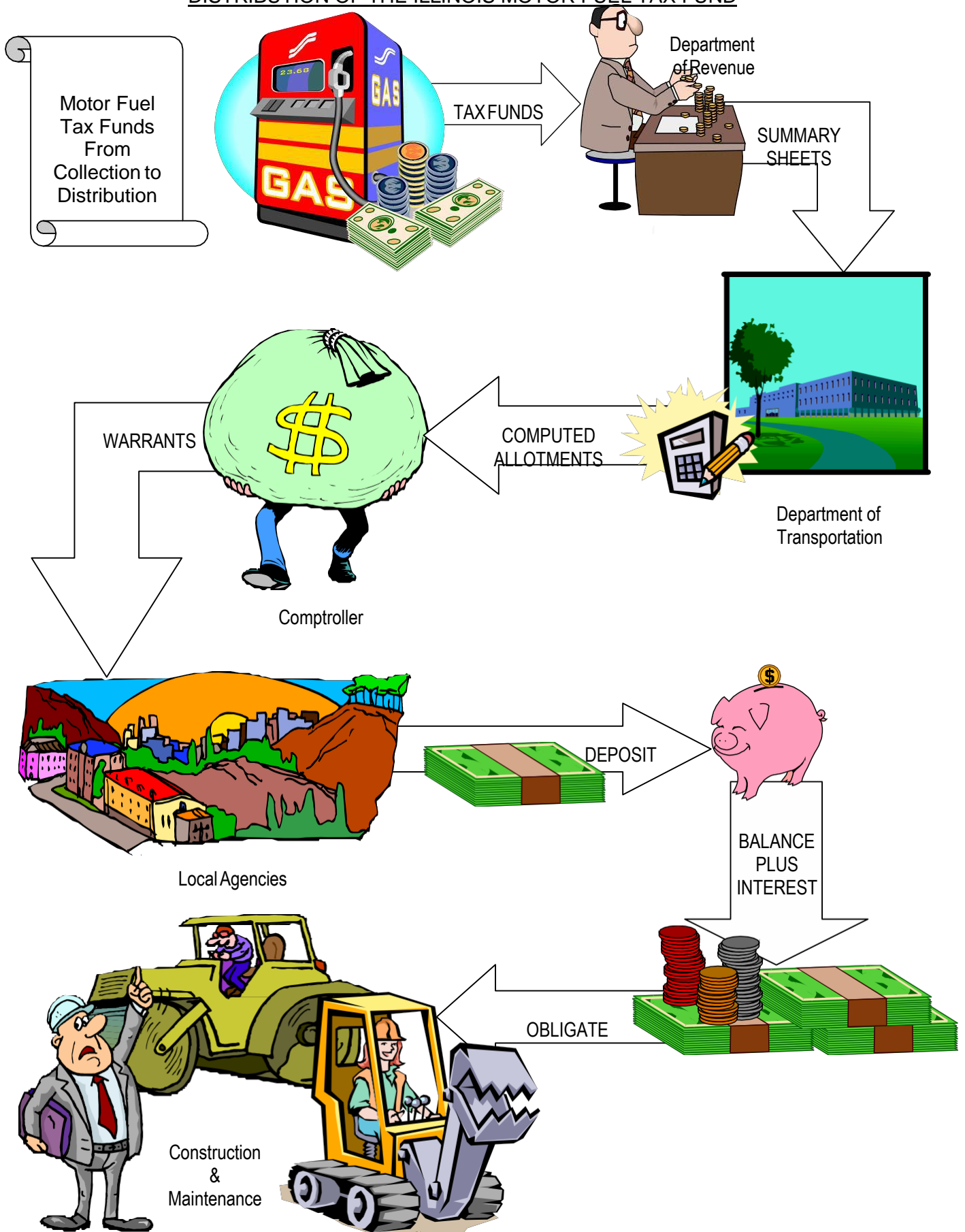
- a. 2 1/2 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel is transferred to the State Construction Account Fund.
- b. \$420,000 per month is transferred to the State Boating Act Fund. This money is used by the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes specified in Article X of the Boat Registration and Safety Act, 625 ILCS 45/10-1.
- c. \$3,500,000 per month is transferred to the Grade Crossing Protection Fund. This money is used by the Department upon order of the Illinois Commerce Commission to pay part of the expense of providing grade crossing protection at points where local public highways cross railroads.
  1. Each fiscal year not less than \$12,000,000 shall be used for construction or reconstruction of rail/highway grade separation structures;
  2. Each fiscal year \$3,000,000 shall be transferred to the Transportation Regulatory Fund and shall be accounted for as part of the rail carrier portion of such funds and shall be used to pay the cost of administration of the Illinois Commerce Commission's railroad safety program, with the remainder to be used by the Department of Transportation upon order of the Illinois Commerce Commission, to pay that part of the cost apportioned by such Commission to the State to cover the interest of the public in the use of highways, roads or streets in the county highway system, township and road district system or municipal street system.
- d. A sufficient amount of money is reserved each month to pay:
  1. The Department of Revenue for the costs of the MFT Law administration;
  2. The Department of Transportation for administration and supervision of the use of MFT funds;
  3. Refunds allowed by law;
  4. \$30,000,000/year into the Vehicle Inspection Fund (\$15,000,000 on July 1 and October 1, or as soon thereafter as may be practical);
  5. Amounts ordered paid by the Court of Claims; and
  6. International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) payments to other states.

The remaining monies shall be allocated each month as follows:

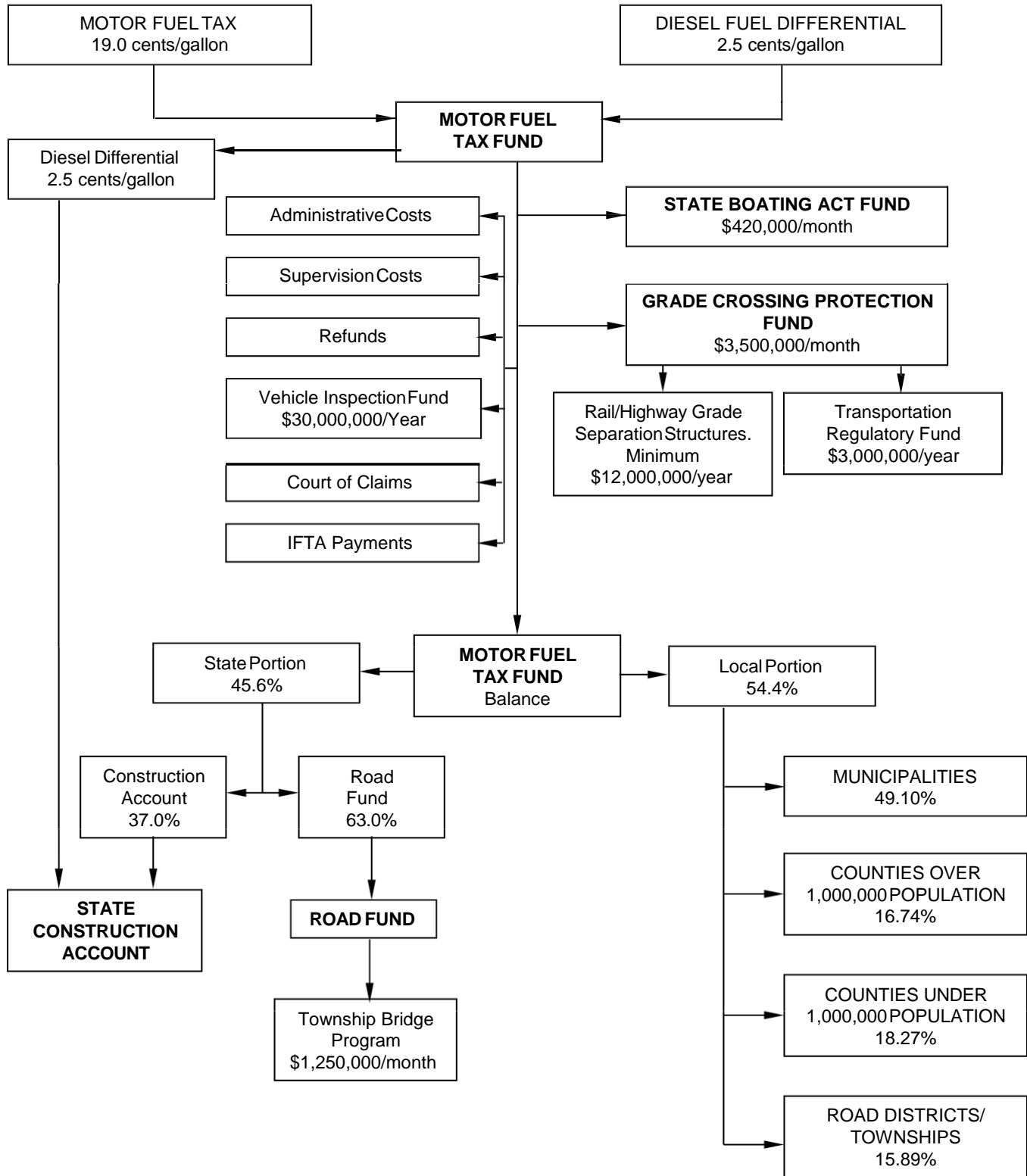
- a. 45.6% shall be deposited as follows:
  - 1. 37% to the State Construction Account Fund;
  - 2. 63% to the Road Fund, including \$1,250,000/month to fund the Township Bridge Program.
- b. 54.4% shall be distributed by the Department of Transportation as follows:
  - 1. 49.10% to the municipalities- apportioned in proportion to population;
  - 2. 16.74% to the counties having a population 1,000,000 or more (Cook County);
  - 3. 18.27% to counties having a population less than 1,000,000 – apportioned in proportion to motor vehicle license fees collected;
  - 4. 15.89% to the road districts/townships – apportioned to each in proportion to a total mileage of roads in the State.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE ILLINOIS MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND



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EXPENDITURE OF THE ILLINOIS MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND

The expenditure of MFT funds requires the approval and supervision of the Department of Transportation. The county board must adopt a resolution appropriating the MFT funds. The resolution shall state how the funds will be used. The resolution shall be submitted to the appropriate IDOT district office for approval.

Engineering agreements require the Department of Transportation's approval. The Department of Transportation's approval of plans, specifications, and estimates of any construction project must be obtained prior to advertising it for bids, as well as prior to awarding any contract. When MFT funds are used for maintenance, the Department of Transportation's approval of the maintenance estimate must be obtained prior to advertising the project for bids. All work requiring bids must be advertised in the Department of Transportation's weekly Contractors Bulletin.

Please contact the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets in your IDOT district if you have any questions regarding MFT expenditures.

**PERMISSIBLE USES OF THE ILLINOIS MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND FOR COUNTIES**

WORK ITEM	REFERENCE
Construction and Maintenance of:	
• County Highways, State Highways, and County Unit Roads	605 ILCS 5/5-701.1, 701.2, 701.3, 701.7 & 701.17
• County Garages	605 ILCS 5/5-701.9
• Office Space (Counties over 1,000,000 population)	605 ILCS 5/5-701.12
• Bicycle Signs/Markings, Paths (counties over 500,000 population)	605 ILCS 5/5-701.13
• Grade Separations and Approaches	605 ILCS 5/5-701.14
• Non-dedicated Subdivision Roads established before July 23, 1959	605 ILCS 5/5-701.15
• Joint Improvements/ Construction or Maintenance Agreements	605 ILCS 5/4-409, 605 ILCS 5/9-101
Allotment of Funds for:	
• Investments and Deposits	50 ILCS 340/1
• Retirement of Indebtedness (MFT Eligible Items)	605 ILCS 5/5-701.4
• Paying Bonds for Superhighways	605 ILCS 5/5-701.5
• Engineering Investigations	605 ILCS 5/5-701.6
• Matching Federal-aid Projects or Projects Eligible for Federal-aid	605 ILCS 5/5-701.7
• Local Mass Transit Districts	605 ILCS 5/5-701.8
• Circuit Court or Other Governmental Expenses Related to County Highway Department (Counties over 1,000,000 population)	605 ILCS 5/5-701.10
• Payment of Principal and Interest on Road Bonds	605 ILCS 5/5-701.11 & 701.16
Although the Statutes do not explicitly state that MFT funds can be used for the work items below, IDOT has determined that the costs for these items are eligible if they are related to MFT maintenance or construction.	
• Engineering Services	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.02(e)
• Right-of-Way	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Salt Storage Facilities	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Storm Sewers	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Traffic Control Devices	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Equipment Operating Costs	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Utility Adjustments	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(b)
• Salary and Expenses of County Engineer	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Wages or Salaries	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Holidays, Vacation, and Sick Leave	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Workers' Compensation Insurance Premiums	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Retirement Fund and Social Security Fund	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Health, Hospitalization, and Life Insurance	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.03(c)
• Asset Management	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-3.06
• Miscellaneous Expenses in Connection with Bond Issue Improvements	BLRS Man. Sect. 4-4.02
• Tree Trimming and Tree Removal	BLRS Man. Sect. 14-1.03(i)
• Railroad Signal Protection and Crossing Work	BLRS Man. Chapter 40

Note: All uses of Motor Fuel Tax are subject to the provisions and limitations reflected in the *BLRS Manual* and the States statutes.

## IDOT REGIONAL/DISTRICT MAP

